

Jonathan L. York, Ph.D.
2074 Parker Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

August 28, 2018

Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) to Accelerate Investment in Broadband and Next-Generation Networks, WC Docket No. 18-141

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am writing to you as an individual but based upon my experience as the founder of the SLO HotHouse, a community program of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Cal Poly. The SLO HotHouse was created through the efforts of the university, the city and county of San Luis Obispo, and the business community to support students and community members as they work to start business ventures. It is an important part of the economic development in this community. The SLO HotHouse is a longtime Digital West customer, and I urge you not to grant USTelecom's petition.

The SLO HotHouse building, like any startup environment, needs very high speed Internet yet the cost to bring fiber to the building was excessive. Digital West was able to provide an Internet connection of 240M down and 80M up using the same copper facilities that the USTA petition seeks to eliminate! Digital West also provides our telephone system over the same connection. I Digital West has worked with me at the SLO HotHouse from the beginning to build support for our economic development mission, provide Internet and telephone services, and support our startup companies who have telecommunications needs.

From my experience, I can assure you that the SLO Hothouse would have a much more difficult time operating our mission of supporting students and community members in creating new businesses without the support of Digital West. The telecommunications expertise for our startup companies would be harder to find and our cost of operations would increase significantly.

As a professor, entrepreneur, and the founder of one of the country's most highly regarded university entrepreneurship centers, I urge you: **please do not stop the ability of providers like Digital West to offer an alternative to the incumbent telecom providers such as AT&T who would never support a community effort like ours.**

Sincerely,



Jonathan L. York, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship, Orfalea College of Business, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Co-founder and Interim Executive Director, Cal Poly Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship